

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11867 020507Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 CU-02 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: STUDENT BOYCOTT AT MANILA UNIVERSITIES

1. STUDENT BOYCOTT OF CLASSES PROTESTING TUITION HIKES AT MANILA UNIVERSITIES CONTINUES AND NOW RECEIVING FRONT-PAGE PRESS COVERAGE. RECENT PRESS ACCOUNTS DESCRIBE VARIOUS PROTEST ACTIVITIES AND LIST ALLEGED HARASSMENT DIRECTED AT PROTESTING STUDENTS. IN EFFORT TO DEFUSE THE ESCALATING ISSUE, PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS ORDERED A FREEZE ON INCREASES IN TUITION FEES.

2. ACCORDING TO JULY 29 TIMES JOURNAL ARTICLE, STUDENTS FROM SEVEN OF LARGEST MANILA UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND UNIVERSITY BELT SCHOOLS, HAVE FORMED ALLIANCE TO DIRECT PROTEST EFFORT AGAINST TUITION HIKES. ALLIANCE DENIED UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION CHARGES THAT STUDENTS INFILTRATED BY SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS. STUDENT ALLIANCE ALSO ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF STUDENT BOYCOTTING CLASSES, INCLUDING ARREST OF 107 STUDENTS AT ARANETA UNIVERSITY, 40 AT UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST, 10 AT UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS, 5 AT PHILIPPINES COLLEGE OF COMMERCE, AND 4 AT ADAMSON UNIVERSITY. OTHER STUDENTS WERE QUESTIONED BY SCHOOL AND CITY AUTHORITIES AND THREATENED WITH EXCLUSION.

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4. JULY 30 TIMES JOURNAL AGAIN CARRIED FRONT-PAGE STORY ON STUDENT UNREST, REPORTING DEMONSTRATION AGAINST TUITION HIKES AT UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS, AND PROTEST AT UP OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO RESTORE STUDENT COUNCIL AND DECONTROL STUDENT NEWSPAPER.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST SCHOOL YEAR SINCE MARTIAL LAW

THAT GUIDED PRESS HAS REPORTED STUDENT UNREST. WE
SUSPECT MOST OF THE STUDENTS REPORTED ARRESTED WERE
DETAINED FOR ONLY A FEW HOURS THEN RELEASED. UP
STUDENT PROTESTS REGARDING STUDENT COUNCIL AND NEWSPAPER
INDICATIVE OF SPILL-OVER AFFECT OF PROTEST AGAINST
TUITION HIKES. THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEZE ON FEE INCREASES
PROBABLY INTENDED TO HEAD OFF SUCH WIDENING OF STUDENT
PROTEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, STUDENTS, BOYCOTTS, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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